

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes the following change:

FIG. 6 - the legend "Related Art" has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests that this drawing correction be entered and made part of the record of this application.

REMARKS

Claims 4-12 and 16-24 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claims 4, 11, 12, 16, 23, and 24 are independent. Claims 1-3 and 13-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Yamaguchi et al.* (USP 6,342,921); rejected claims 1-3 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Misawa* (USP 6,700,607); rejected claims 4-7, 9-12, 16-19, and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamaguchi et al.* in view of *Harada et al.* (USP 6,108,036); and rejected claims 8 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamaguchi et al.* in view of *Harada et al.* and further in view of *Dischert* (USP 6,040,869). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to Fig. 6. By this amendment, Applicant has amended Fig. 6 to include a legend entitled "Related Art". Based upon this amendment, Applicant respectfully requests the outstanding objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Yamaguchi et al.* and *Misawa*. By this amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-3 and 13-15 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. This cancellation is made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application. As such, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103 - *Yamaguchi et al./Harada et al.*

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 4, the Examiner asserts that *Yamaguchi et al.* teaches all of the claim elements except for the signal processing device that produces the image signals by producing pixel information of one line from the pixel information of each pair of two adjoining lines read from said solid imaging device when the image signals with low definition are produced. The Examiner relies on the teachings of *Harada et al.* to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Yamaguchi et al.*, citing to col. 34, lines 23-41.

Harada et al. discloses at col. 34, lines 23-41 as follows:

Combinations of light-receiving regions d to be added differ depending upon a time when the first field outputs or when the second field outputs. In the case of output from the first field, for example, a light-receiving signal from a light-receiving region $d(n, m)$ belonging to the n -th row and the m -th column array is added to a light-receiving signal from a light-receiving region $d(n+1, m)$ belonging to the $(n+1)$ -th row and the m -th column array. In the case of output from the second field, a light-receiving signal from a light-receiving region $d(n, m)$ is added to a light-receiving signal from a light-receiving region $d(n-1, m)$ belonging to the $(n-1)$ -row and the m -th column array. The processing method for reading the light-receiving signal is generally referred to as "interlacing" or "two-pixel-mixing reading".

In contrast, the present invention as set forth in claim 4, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, an imaging apparatus comprising a timing generator that drives the solid imaging device and reads pixel information from the solid imaging device, the timing generator applying gate pulses **for transferring only pixel information of pairs of two adjoining lines with intervals of a plurality of lines to vertical transferring routes to the transferring gates when image signals with low definition are produced.**

As noted above, the interlacing described in *Harada et al.* is not from "each pair of two adjoining lines read from the solid imaging device when the image signals with low definition are produced" as set forth in claim 4. As such, Applicant maintains that *Harada et al.* fails to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Yamaguchi et al.*, assuming these references are

combinable, which Applicant does not admit. As the Examiner admits that *Yamaguchi et al.* fails to teach or suggest this element, Applicant maintains that the Examiner has failed to establish *prima facie* obviousness by failing to provide references that teach or suggest all the claim elements. As such, Applicant respectfully requests the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

Additionally, in support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 4, the Examiner asserts that one skilled in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings of *Harada et al.* with the teachings of *Yamaguchi et al.* in order to provide a means for adding signals output from two adjacent light-receiving regions to generate a single output in each field. However, Applicant maintains that one skilled in the art would not have been so motivated to make the proposed combination as the mode described in *Yamaguchi et al.* is low resolution while the mode in *Harada et al.* is high resolution. As such, as there is insufficient motivation to combine the teachings of the cited references, Applicant maintains that the Examiner has failed to establish *prima facie* obviousness by failing to provide proper motivation to combine the teachings of the cited references. As such, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 5-10 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 4 at least based upon their dependency on claim 4. It is further respectfully submitted that claims 11, 12, 16, 23, and 24 include elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 4, and thus these claims, together with claims dependent thereon, are not obvious over the references as cited.

Conclusion

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet, Reg. No. 52,327 at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000. Facsimile communications may be sent to facsimile number (703) 205-8050.

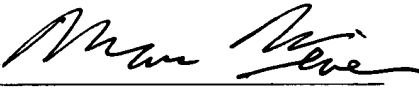
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any

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additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Replacement Sheet for Fig. 6